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"As for holding public meetings, I am afraid it is beyond Government. It is for my hon. Friend to hold meetings and send the resolutions passed by them to Government for information. In fact, this is one of the ways in which my friend can help Government. Let him arrange to hold meetings in various parts of the country, of people who are in favour of the Bill and of people who are against the Bill, and send their opinions to Government. Such opinions are likely to reflect the opinion of the community and they will be of considerable help to Government."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Mr. Hameed Khan may move his amendment now."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I formally move—

'*that the Marumakkattayam Bill (Bill No. 13 of 1931) of Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon and that such opinion be obtained and placed on the table of the House before the next meeting of the Council*'."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The date of the next meeting has not been fixed. It may be after the 10th of January. As I have said before, I undertake to get the opinions of the persons concerned before the 5th or the 10th of January. After getting the opinions of the persons concerned, I shall print them and place them before hon. Members. In the light of these remarks I hope my hon. Friend will not press his amendment."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I do not press my amendment; I hope the opinions will be received before the 5th January."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that Bill No. 13 of 1931 be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

The motion was carried.

(4) THE NAMBUDIRI BILL

* Mr. P. MADHUSOODHANAN THANGAL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to move that the Nambudiri Bill[a] (Bill No. 14 of 1931) be referred to a Select Committee. Before I do so, may I, Sir, now with your kind permission make a few observations, regarding the necessity for legislation on the lines proposed by me.

"My Bill does not propose to introduce any revolutionary change. The whole Bill centres round one question, i.e., whether all Nambudiri males should be allowed to marry within caste. If this question is to be answered in the affirmative, then the Bill has to be accepted. The only other important question involved in the Bill is whether a member should have the right to ask for his share of the family properties. I do not think that any one would give a negative answer to this question. There may be some people who think whether their right to partition is not likely to be abused. It is to appease them that certain restrictions have been imposed on the exercise of their right. The greatest disease

[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 18th August 1931.

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of the community now is unemployment and lack of education. Though the Nambudiris are an intelligent race and though there are many rich families among them, you can count on your fingers the number of Nambudiris who have availed themselves of the present system of education. On account of this backwardness in education, they continue to be the strongholds of superstition and orthodoxy and retard the progress of even other communities. Would you believe if I say that, in this year of Grace 1931, there are people who would excommunicate their relations for the great sin of having allowed their women to have cloth umbrellas or wear jackets to cover their nudity or to wear a pair of gold bangles? And won't you lend me your helping hand if I say that such things have taken place just a couple of months ago and I want to prevent their repetition? If this Bill is accepted and with the goodwill of the House, is allowed to be put on the statute book, then, in a few years' time the Nambudiris shall work a miracle. The Yogakshema Sabha, the accredited organization of the Nambudiris, has been asking for legislation in the above matters for some time. The Nambudiri Yuvajana Sabha which is the organization of the Nambudiri youths has been clamouring for more radical things. Mr. O. M. Narayanan Nambudiripad, who was a member of the last Council, drafted a Bill and obtained the permission of the Viceroy; but for some reasons did not introduce it. At the last annual sessions of the Yogakshema Sabha and the Yuvajana Sabha I was asked to introduce a Bill for the above purposes in this Council, and it is in pursuance of that mandate, and at the request of innumerable individual Nambudiri gentlemen, that I seek to introduce this Bill.

"Before concluding, let me make mention that a similar necessity was felt at Travancore and the Nambudiris there have succeeded in getting a Bill passed in the Travancore Legislative Council, and I am glad to tell you that the Maharani Regent has kindly assented to it recently, and the Bill is in force now. So, in the name of thousands of Nambudiri women, who are rotting behind the parda, in the name of the Nambudiri race, which is rapidly decaying in ignorance and superstition, and in the name of a healthy family life, I beseech you to accept this Bill and allow it to be referred to the Select Committee, composed of the following members:—

(1) The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar.
(2) The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
(3) Dr. P. Subbarayan.
(4) Mr. H. R. Pate.
(5) Mr. K. P. Raman Menon.
(6) Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar.
(7) Mr. R. M. Palat.
(8) Mr. C. Krishnan.
(9) Khan Bahadur T. M. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur.
(10) Mr. A. B. Shetty.
(11) Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt.
(12) Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
(13) B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur.
(14) Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar.
(15) Myself."

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* Mr. V. T. Arasu :—" Mr. President, Sir, though I do not belong to the Nambudiri community which is concerned in this Bill, I have great pleasure in seconding the motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Thangal. I trust that the Bill will be referred to a Select Committee and that the hon. the Law Member will not come forward with a dilatory motion of the kind that he brought in connexion with the Bill that was just before us, namely, that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon. It is very regrettable that Government should adopt this obstructionist and defeatist policy with regard to measures brought by private members. I do not see what the Council is here for, if non-official members are not given opportunities to move and bring forward Bills on matters with which they are concerned.

" The hon. Mover of this motion has explained in detail the objects of this Bill and its very important provisions. At this stage I feel it is not necessary for me to go any further into the detailed points on which this Bill has got a bearing. I would conclude by earnestly requesting the hon. the Law Member once over, not to move any motion for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion." 4 p.m.

(As it was then 4 o'clock, the adjournment motion was taken up.)

VI.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* THE CONDUCT OF REVENUE OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AT ELLORE.

* Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz.—

' *the conduct of the Revenue Officers of the Government at the public meeting held at the Young Men's Hindu Association, Ellore, on the* 18*th October* 1931.'

" Sir, I feel I must preface the few remarks that I am going to make in this connexion, by an apology to the Council for venturing to adjourn the business of this House by a motion instead of being satisfied with the answers that might be elicited by putting interpellations to the Government. My experience of the last 7 years of this Council has taught me that invariably on questions of importance and public interest, the Government have no information on the interpellations put by non-officials. When the Members of the Government are attacked by a fusilade of supplementary questions, they hesitate to consider the advisability of calling for information. In fact that reluctant acceptance to agree to consider the suggestion for calling for further information is not generally followed up by action unless there is the prospect of a resolution or adjournment motion coming up for discussion in the Council. When such motions or resolutions are tabled, the Government have the particular knack of defeating the purpose by metaphysical arguments or by mechanised majorities. But if these resolutions are backed up by a consensus of opinion from all sections of the House, then the Government show a tendency to agree to consider the subject-matter of the motion and thus effectively persuade the movers of the motions to withdraw them. I must admit that hon. Members of this House, to whatever section of the House they may belong, are always